

- 38 -

What is claimed is:

1. A method for administering a therapeutic medium to a posterior segment of an eye, the method comprising the step of:
instilling the therapeutic medium sub-retinally.
2. The administering method of claim 1, wherein said step of instilling includes localizing the action of the therapeutic medium at the choroid and the retina and minimizing action at other tissues of the eye.
3. The administering method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic medium being administered is one of a drug, medicament, antiproliferative, neuroprotective, steroidal anti-inflammatory, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, growth factor, neurotropic factor, antiangiogenic, thrombolytic or a gene.
4. The administering method of claim 3, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory is selected from the group consisting of triamcinolone, dexamethasone, fluocinolone, cortisone, prednisolone, flumetholone, and derivatives thereof.
5. The administering method of claim 1, wherein a disease state to be treated is selected from the group consisting of ocular neovascularization, ocular inflammation and retinal degeneration.
6. The administering method of claim 1, wherein said step of instilling includes forming a depot of a drug between the choroid and the retina.

- 39 -

7. The administering method of claim 1, wherein said step of instilling includes one of injecting or implanting the therapeutic medium sub-retinally.

8. The administering method of claim 7, wherein said step of instilling includes injecting a solution including the therapeutic medium between the choroid and the retina.

9. The administering method of claim 1, wherein said step of instilling includes instilling the therapeutic medium in a sub-retinal space.

10. The administering method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic medium comprises a sustained release device and wherein said step of instilling includes implanting the sustained release device in a sub-retinal space.

11. The administering method of claim 1, wherein said step of instilling includes:

creating a localized retinal detachment to define a sub-retinal space; and
disposing the therapeutic medium in the sub-retinal space formed by the localized retinal detachment.

12. The administering method of claim 11, wherein said disposing includes one of injecting or implanting the therapeutic medium in the sub-retinal space formed by the retinal detachment.

- 40 -

13. The administering method of claim 12, wherein said injecting includes injecting a solution including the therapeutic medium in the sub-retinal space.

14. The administering method of claim 12, wherein the therapeutic medium comprises a sustained release device and wherein said step of implanting includes implanting the sustained release device in the sub-retinal space.

15. The administering method of claim 14, wherein the sustained release device is configured to provide a sustained sub-retinal release of the therapeutic medium.

16. The administering method of claim 10, wherein the sustained release device is configured to provide a sustained sub-retinal release of the therapeutic medium.

17. The administering method of any of claim 15 or 16, wherein the therapeutic medium is one of a drug, medicament, antiproliferative, neuroprotective, steroidal anti-inflammatory, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, growth factor, neurotropic factor, antiangiogenic, thrombolytic or a gene.

18. The administering method of claim 17, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory is selected from the group consisting of triamcinolone, dexamethasone, fluocinolone, cortisone, prednisolone, flumetholone, and derivatives thereof.

- 41 -

19. The administering method of claim 11, wherein a disease state to be treated is selected from the group consisting of ocular neovascularization, ocular inflammation and retinal degeneration.

20. A method for treating an eye, comprising the step of:
administering a therapeutic medium to a posterior segment of an eye sub-retinally.

21. The eye treatment method of claim 20, wherein said step of administering sub-retinally includes forming a depot of a drug between the choroid and the retina.

22. The eye treatment method of claim 20, wherein said step of administering includes injecting a solution including the therapeutic medium between the choroid and the retina.

23. The eye treatment method of claim 20, wherein said step of administering includes one of injecting or implanting the therapeutic medium sub-retinally.

24. The eye treatment method of claim 20, wherein said step of administering includes:
creating a localized retinal detachment to define a sub-retinal space; and

- 42 -

disposing the therapeutic medium in the sub-retinal space formed by the localized retinal detachment.

25. The eye treatment method of claim 20, wherein said step of administering includes:

forming a sub-retinal space; and

disposing the therapeutic medium in the sub-retinal space.

26. The eye treatment method of any of claims 24-25, wherein said step of disposing includes:

injecting a solution including the therapeutic medium into the sub-retinal space.

27. The eye treatment method of claim 20, further comprising the step of controllably releasing the over time the sub-retinally administered therapeutic medium.

28. The administering method of claim 1, further comprising the step of controllably releasing over time the sub-retinally instilled therapeutic medium.

28A. The administering method of claim 1, further comprising the step of controllably releasing over time the sub-retinally instilled therapeutic medium.

- 43 -

29. A method for administering a steroid to a posterior segment of an eye, the method comprising the step of:

instilling the steroid sub-retinally.

30. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes localizing the action of the steroid at the choroid and the retina and minimizing action at other tissues of the eye.

31. The administering method of claim 29, wherein the steroid being administered is one of an anti-inflammatory steroid and a corticosteroid.

32. The administering method of claim 31, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group triamcinolone, dexamethasone, fluocinolone, cortisone, prednisolone, flumetholone, and derivatives thereof.

33. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes forming a depot of a drug between the choroid and the retina.

34. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes one of injecting or implanting the steroid sub-retinally.

35. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes injecting a solution including the steroid between the choroid and the retina.

- 44 -

36. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes instilling the steroid in a sub-retinal space.

37. The administering method of claim 29, wherein the steroid comprises a sustained release device and wherein said step of instilling includes implanting the sustained release device in a sub-retinal space.

38. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes:

creating a localized retinal detachment to define a sub-retinal space; and
disposing the steroid in the sub-retinal space formed by the localized retinal detachment.

39. The administering method of claim 38, wherein said disposing includes one of injecting or implanting the steroid in the sub-retinal space formed by the retinal detachment.

40. The administering method of claim 39, wherein said injecting includes injecting a solution including the steroid in the sub-retinal space.

41. The administering method of claim 39, wherein the steroid comprises a sustained release device and wherein said step of implanting includes implanting the sustained release device in the sub-retinal space.

- 45 -

42. The administering method of claim 41, wherein the sustained release device is configured to provide a sustained sub-retinal release of the steroid.

43. The administering method of any of claim 42, wherein the steroid is one of an anti-inflammatory steroid and a corticosteroid.

44. The administering method of claim 43, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group triamcinolone, dexamethasone, fluocinolone, cortisone, prednisolone, flumetholone, and derivatives thereof.

44A. The administering method of claim 29, further comprising the step of controllably releasing over time the sub-retinally instilled steroid.

45. A method for treating an eye, comprising the step of:
administering a steroid to a posterior segment of an eye sub-retinally.

46. The eye treatment method of claim 45, wherein said step of administering sub-retinally includes forming a depot of a drug between the choroid and the retina.

47. The eye treatment method of claim 45, wherein said step of administering includes injecting a solution including the steroid between the choroid and the retina.

- 46 -

48. The eye treatment method of claim 45, wherein said step of administering includes one of injecting or implanting the steroid sub-retinally.

49. The eye treatment method of claim 45, wherein said step of administering includes:

creating a localized retinal detachment to define a sub-retinal space; and
disposing the steroid in the sub-retinal space formed by the localized retinal detachment.

50. The eye treatment method of claim 45, wherein said step of administering includes:

forming a sub-retinal space; and
disposing the steroid in the sub-retinal space.

51. The eye treatment method of claims 50, wherein said step of disposing includes:

injecting a solution including the steroid into the sub-retinal space.

52. The eye treatment method of claim 49, wherein said step of disposing includes:

injecting a solution including the steroid into the sub-retinal space.

53. The eye treatment method of claim 45, further comprising the step of controllably releasing the over time the sub-retinally administered steroid.

- 47 -

54. The administering method of claim 1, wherein said step of instilling includes surgically implanting a drug delivery device between the retina and the underlying choroids without first creating a localized retinal detachment, the drug delivery device including the therapeutic medium.

55. The eye treatment method of claim 20, wherein said administering includes surgically implanting a drug delivery device between the retina and the underlying choroids without first creating a localized retinal detachment, the drug delivery device including the therapeutic medium.

56. The administering method of claim 29, wherein said step of instilling includes surgically implanting a drug delivery device between the retina and the underlying choroids without first creating a localized retinal detachment, the drug delivery device including the therapeutic steroid.

57. The administering method of claim 20, wherein said step of instilling includes surgically implanting a drug delivery device between the retina and the underlying choroids without first creating a localized retinal detachment, the drug delivery device including the therapeutic steroid.